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EATON BRAY
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1925,

BY
W. H. SQUARE,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.



TO THE
EATON BRAY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.

I was appointed Medical Officer of Health in October last, and owing to the death of my Predecessor, and the transfer of his practice, various information required by me for the proper compilation of my Report, appears to be incomplete. The Report is not all I could wish, but I have, however, done the best I possibly can under the circumstances.

In future years there shall be no need for apologies.

Your obedient Servant.

W. H. Square.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	13,605
Population (1924)	...	...	...	3840
Number of inhabited houses (1924)	...	...	...	1083
Number of families or separate occupiers (1924)	...	...	...	1092
Ratable value	...	...	...	£26,964
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£69

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.		
Births	{ Legitimate	86	52	36	} Birth Rate (R. G.)	20·9
	{ Illegitimate	2	0	2		
Deaths	...	56	32	24	Death Rate (R. G.)	17·6
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth						
from sepsis					...	Nil
,, other causes						Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—						
Deaths from Measles (all ages)						Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)						Nil
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)						1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 3 cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

On April 11th, a girl, aged 16 years, was notified from Heath, and isolated at home.

On September 25th, a boy, aged 10 years, was notified from Eaton Bray, and was removed to the hospital.

On October 22nd, a boy, aged 9 years, was notified from Eaton Bray, and was removed to the hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 2 cases of scarlet fever notified in the district.

On August 10th, a girl, aged 13 years, was notified from Stanbridge, but it was a doubtful case as she had it on December 24th, and had been to the hospital.

On November 10th, a girl, aged 5 years, was notified from Eaton Bray, and was removed to the hospital.

ENTERIC.

There was one case of enteric notified during the year.

On April 26th, a man, aged 47 years, was notified from Heath, and was removed to the hospital. This case was imported from London.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were no cases of puerperal fever.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

On February 13th, a girl, aged 14 years, was notified from Tilsworth (lungs).

On July 29th, a woman, aged 52 years, was notified from West Park Mental Hospital, Epsom (left lung).

On December 17th, a boy, aged 7 years, was notified from Stanbridge Ford. Admitted to Mogerhanger, February 6th, 1926

On June 15th, a girl, aged 5 years, was notified from Eaton Bray (glands).

On August 7th, 1 case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified from Heath, and isolated at home. Case proved fatal.

On October 26th, 1 case of septic pneumonia was notified from Hockliffe. A girl, aged 6 years, died in 24 hours.

On October 29th, 1 case of Septicæmia was notified from Eggington, and removed to Bedford Hospital. Recovered and is now at home.

On December 21st, 1 case of Poliomyelitis was notified from Stanbridge, and was removed to Aylesbury, at present lost use of left arm.

CHICKEN POX.

During the early part of the year there was an epidemic of this disease.

There have been several cases of whooping cough during the year.

THE DUNSTABLE AND DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL.

The cases of infectious disease from the District are taken to the above hospital in a motor ambulance.

During the year from this District there have been treated in the hospital:—1 case of scarlet fever, 2 cases of diphtheria, and one case of enteric.

There are three blocks, not including the military block, which the committee has retained in case of epidemics. One block contains twenty beds, the small ward above it five beds, and the third block eight beds.

There is a resident matron, and the hospital is well administered. Specimens for microscopic and bacteriological examination are sent to the Clinical Research.

The general professional nursing in the home is carried out by the district nurses.

There are two midwives resident in the District, and there are others on the boundary of the District.

Tuberculosis cases can attend the Tuberculosis Dispensary, conveniently situated at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Children and general cases can be admitted to the hospital at Luton, and also to the West Herts Infirmary.

There is a Small Pox Hospital at Leighton on the border of the Eaton Bray district.

Antitoxin for diphtheria is supplied by the Council.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The schools of the District are in the following parishes:—Heath, Egginton, Hockliffe, Stanbridge, Eaton Bray, and Billington.

The sanitary accommodation of these schools is satisfactory, the closets being of the pail type.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 2 flour mills in the District, 2 Brickyards and also a large nursery giving occupation to a large number.

WATER-SUPPLY.

The villages throughout the District are supplied with water from the wells.

At Heath-and-Reach the water-supply is from the sand, the wells generally being deep and the supply being obtained by windlass. Two public pumps exist, and a number of houses are supplied from the Leighton Buzzard public supply.

In the Chalgrave district the wells are generally deep.

There are public pumps both at Tebworth and Wingfield.

At Tilsworth and Stanbridge the wells are in the clay.

In Eaton Bray the supply is from wells.

The water-supply of Great Billington is from deep wells and there is a public pump.

In Little Billington the general supply is from wells. Water is always obtainable from a spring.

At Egginton the supply is from deep wells, there being a public pump and an abundant and good supply. The depth of the public well is over 80 feet.

DRAINAGE.

At Eaton Bray there is a complete sewerage system, with septic tanks and sewage farm.

The effluent, after passing through septic tanks, is disposed of by sub-irrigation.

At Stanbridge there is a sewerage system with a septic tank in a field off Station Road.

At Heath-and-Reach the majority of the cottages have privies with pails, the contents of which are dug into the garden.

The majority of the cottages in the parishes of Hockliffe, Tils-worth, Billington and Egginton have also privies with pails, the contents being dug into the garden.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of rivers or streams in the District, there being no works to cause any pollution.

DAIRIES AND COW-SHEDS.

There are 37 cow-keepers in the District, and there are approximately 239 cows. The milk is sent to London, Luton, Watford and Leighton, and is also sold locally in the villages. Those inspected by me are in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, BAKE-HOUSES.

There are 13 slaughter-houses in the District. They are all well kept, in a clean condition, and have all been lime-washed.

There are two knackers' licensed premises in the District.

There are 10 bake-houses, one of these being an underground one. They have been white-washed as required.

The flour mills in the District are in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

UNSOOUND FOOD.

There have been no cases of unsound food in the District during the past year, to my knowledge.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
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(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	-					Nil
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1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	85
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	-	-	12
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(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	2
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(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	1
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2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	-	1
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs-	-	7
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	0
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(a) by owners	-	-	-	-	4
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-	1
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(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	1
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B—Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners - - - - -	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners -	.1

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders - - -	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - -	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit - - -	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - -	1
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - -	Nil

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND:—

(a) Drainage defects - - - - -	8
(b) Closet accommodation (insufficient and defective)	1
(c) Water Supply exposed to surface pollution -	1
(d) Insufficient circulation of air - - - - -	0
(e) Dampness - - - - -	11
(f) Insufficient light - - - - -	0
(g) Dirty by landlord's default - - - - -	1
(h) Dirty by tenant's default - - - - -	10
(i) Dirty by default of landlord and tenant -	10
(j) Insufficient paving - - - - -	4
(k) Deficient method of refuse disposal - - -	0
(l) Internal defects - - - - -	11
(m) Defective roofs, or gutters and down pipes -	13

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Number on register	-	-	-	-	13
Number of inspections	-	-	-	-	26
Number of defects found	-	-	-	-	1
Number remedied	-	-	-	-	1

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register	-	-	-	-	10
Number of inspections	-	-	-	-	20
Number of defects found	-	-	-	-	0
Number remedied	-	-	-	-	0
Underground Bakehouse	-	-	-	-	1

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk on register					18
Number of Cowkeepers on register	-	-	-	-	37
Number of Inspections	-	-	-	-	79

VARIOUS.

Removals of animals improperly kept	-	-	-	-	0
Visits of infected houses	-	-	-	-	28
Houses disinfected	-	-	-	-	14

Your obedient servant,

W. H. SQUARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Nett. Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.
								Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
1919	3650	80	21·3	54	14·8	1	7	6	75	61 16·7
1920	3795	90	23·9	34	8·9	0	6	7	76·9	40 10·5
1921	3745	76	20·6	49	13·1	1	6	6	77·9	54 14·4
1922	3784	75	20·3	45	11·9	0	10	7	90·9	55 14·5
1923	3816	90	23·8	22	5·7	0	8	2	21·9	30 7·8
1924	3839	82	21·6	54	14	1	5	7	84·3	58 15·1
1925	3840	88	23·0	56		1	4	6	68·2	59 14·9

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1925

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.											Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards
Poliomyelitis ...	1									1			
Diphtheria ...	3						2		1				
Scarlet Fever ...	2					1		1					
Enteric Fever ...	1								1				
Puerperal Fever ...													
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1					1							1
Erysipelas ...													
Encephalitis Lethargica	1									1			1
Tuberculosis ...	4											1	
Chicken Pox ...	15												
Totals ...	28					2	2	1	2	3		6	2

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.—1925.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5								
10	1							
15		1						
20						1		
25								
35								
45		1						
65 upwards					1			
Totals	1	2		1	1	1		

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Infantile Mortality during the year 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.	Certified ...										6
	Uncertified ...										
	Small-pox ...										
	Chicken-pox ...										
	Measles ...										
	Scarlet Fever ...										
	Whooping Cough ...										
	Diphtheria and Croup ...										
	Erysipelas ...										
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
	Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
	Other Tuberculous Diseases										
	Meningitis, <i>not Tuberculous</i>										
	Convulsions ...										
	Laryngitis ...										
	Bronchitis ...										
	Pneumonia (all forms) ...										
	Diarrhœa ...			1							
	Enteritis ...										
	Gastritis ...										
	Syphilis ...										
	Rickets ...										
	Suffocation, overlying ...										
	Injury at Birth ..										
	Atelectasis ...										
	Congenital Malformations							1			
	Premature Birth ...	2									
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...										
	Other Causes ...			1			1				
		2		2			1	1			6

